

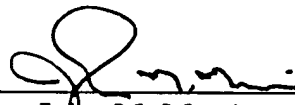
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Ser. No. 09/740,262

roll having a "rigid metal sleeve 25 of steel or the like" (column 2, line 63). There is no teaching of bowing in the Valette reference as there is no need for such configuration in an abrading roll. Further, each of the independent claims refers to means for a rigid shaft. The roll segments of the present invention are configured for their ability to conform to the bowed contour of the bowable shaft during a spreading operation of a web material.

2. Applicant respectfully requests that the rejection be removed, that claims 1 - 18, inclusive, as originally presented be passed to allowance.

Respectfully Submitted,

By 
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7 May 2002

Specimen Submission/172540/20507 Amendment A

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